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A document is scanned in a scanning device to obtain electronic data. The electronic data represents information on the document. The electronic data is stored to a storage device. An error then occurs either before or after beginning transmission of the data to an e-mail server. The error causes a failure in the communication of the data to the e-mail server. The method of failure detection depends on the type of failure. For a loss of power, the data storage device is examined for the electronic data. If electronic data is found, communication is established with the e-mail server and the electronic data is transmitted to the e-mail server. The data storage device must be a non-volatile data storage device to recover from a loss of power error. For a loss of communication with the server or failure to establish communication with the server, communication is established with the e-mail server and the electronic data is transmitted to the e-mail server.